



Docket No.: 041-1790E

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

: **EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**

Takayuki SUGAHARA

: **RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

Serial No. 09/469,499

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:

: Prior Group Art Unit: 2613

filed: 22 December 1999

: Prior Examiner: LEE, Y YOUNG

For: **REPRODUCTION APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING USER  
MODIFIABLE PROTECTION OF DATA REPRODUCTION (as amended)**

*241123  
41703*

**RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION**

**RECEIVED**

**BOX AF**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

**APR 16 2003**

**Technology Center 2600**

Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed January 14, 2003, applicant requests reconsideration of the rejections set forth therein for the following reasons.

**REMARKS**

As has been noted during prior prosecution, the present invention provides an apparatus, a method and a medium for providing specific levels of protection against decoding or reproduction of main data conveyed by a data recording medium.

As disclosed throughout the specification, the present invention is applicable to data recorded on various media, such as data which may be digitally recorded on disks or tapes, etc.

The claims specifically identify protection against reproduction (such as video reproduction) by restricting of reproduction or decoding of a particular sequence of frames of the video signal (i.e., protection against decoding or reproduction of a particular time segment of the